

(Milwaukee, WI)— Today Congresswoman Gwen Moore announced that Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter has selected Milwaukee to serve as the host city for the official commissioning of a new U.S. Naval ship, the locally-built USS Freedom (LCS-1). In an official letter and subsequent phone call earlier this year, Congresswoman Moore urged Secretary Winter to consider Milwaukee for the monumental event, reminding him that local workers and companies were crucial to the production of the USS Freedom.

“The selection of Milwaukee will pay tribute to our workers, who are distinguished throughout the world for their strong work ethic and high quality workmanship,” said Congresswoman Moore. “Milwaukee is also a prime choice, as it boasts the requisite harbor depths and broad open spaces necessary for the commissioning, and also meets all required homeland security criteria.”

Though many other locations were considered for the commissioning of the ship, including Chicago, Congresswoman Moore took a lead in urging Secretary Winter to keep Milwaukee’s unique and positive attributes in mind during the selection process, emphasizing the contributions of Wisconsin workers in building the ship. Specifically, DRS Technologies, located in Milwaukee, built the powertrain for the USS Freedom, and the keel of the ship was laid down by Marinette Marine in Marinette, Wisconsin.

The USS Freedom is the lead ship in a new class of naval vessels known as littoral combat ships (LCS) that are intended for use in operations close to the shore. The strengths of the LCS are speed, mission module space, and a shallow water capable draft.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and County Executive Scott Walker have also been involved in the campaign for Milwaukee to serve as host to the commissioning of USS Freedom.

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